

## Kansas Kids Say



**There's a place beside us that has a lot of garbage. So, I picked it up. Now someone bought the land and they are enjoying it.**

- Isaac, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

## IT'S YOUR TURN

Keep those Pictures, Quotes, Poems, and Thoughts coming! We love to hear from you and will use as many as we can in upcoming issues of *Kansas Kids Can*. Email us at:

[kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us)  
or mail us at:

### KDHE

Bureau of Waste Management  
Attn: *Kansas Kids Can*  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

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## What HAPPENS To The Leftover Food On Your Plate When You Finish Your lunch?

**S**tudents in several of the schools in Wichita are sorting their food waste to be used in the city's compost program!

Compost means to turn food scraps, leaves, garden trimmings and paper products into rich, new soil.

About three and a half years ago, USD 259 (Wichita Public Schools) and Wood Recycle and Composting Center partnered together to "recycle" some of the trash and food waste at the schools, and turn it into compost.

This program is good for the community because it reduces the amount of trash we send to the landfill.

It is good for the schools because it reduces their trash bills. It is good for students because they learn how to contribute to the environment in a positive way by turning their leftover food into compost!



Here's how the program works.



It begins when students are taught what they may and may not put into the special containers for composting.



There are two separate cans available for student's trash - one is for compostable items, and one is for other trash.



## FUN FACT

The food compost program in Wichita picks up an estimated 20,000 TONS of food waste each month for composting. That's about the weight of three African Elephants.



(continued from page 1, "What Happens...")

The trash that holds the compostable items is lined with a special liner called a biodegradable bag that can be composted too! That way, no one has to touch the food.



When the can is full, someone takes it to the special container outside so that it can be picked up.

The Wood Recycle and Composting Center comes to the school and picks up the compostable items in a special truck used only for those items.

It is trucked to the Compost Facility and dumped into a pile called a windrow.

## SAMPLE COMPOST

You've just read about the Food Composting program in Wichita.

Your teacher can take a survey on our website:

[www.kansasdontspoil.com](http://www.kansasdontspoil.com).

If your teacher completes the survey, we will send your class a REAL bag of composted food waste from the Wichita Schools/Wood Recycling and Composting Center, plus a great composting guide. Have them do it today!

A windrow is a long row of all kinds of material (it looks like long rows of dirt) that has been mixed together to turn into compost.

The windrows are turned twice a day with a special machine. Turning is important to keep the pile from smelling, and to get more oxygen into the different ingredients so that it turns into compost quickly.

In about 12 weeks, everything has turned into compost (which looks just like dark brown dirt). It cures (sits there) for about one month, and then it's ready to use! People use it in their gardens to help grow healthy plants, for a foundation for planting grass seed in front yards (grass seeds just LOVE compost!), and much more.

Would your school like to have a program like this? Ask your teacher to request more information from Alan Chappell. The phone number to call is 316-838-7211 at the Wood Recycle and Composting Center. Or you can write to him at:

Alan Chappell  
Wood Recycle & Composting Center  
302 W. 53rd Street, North  
Wichita, Kansas 67204  
email: [alan-wrcc@prodigy.net](mailto:alan-wrcc@prodigy.net)



Do any of you have a compost bin at home? If so, take a picture of it with you standing beside it, and send it to us! We'll include it in a future issue. Our address is:

KDHE - Bureau of Waste Management  
Attn: Kansas Kids Can  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320  
Topeka, KS 66612

If you'd rather not have a picture taken, email us with any of your thoughts about your compost bin.

Our email address is:  
[kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us)



# What Can Be Composted From School Trash?

Besides food, lots of paper products can be composted as well. Check out this list of things that you can compost from your school's trash bin!



- Milk Cartons & Coffee Filters
- Paper Tissues & Towels
- Waxed Corrugated Cardboard Boxes
- Grass & Leaves
- Pizza Boxes
- Paper Plates & Cups
- Food
- Waxed Paper
- Napkins

Here's a list of things you should NOT put in the compost bin from your school's trash!



- Plastic Straws
- Potato Chip Bags
- Plastic Spoons & Forks
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Wrap

**WHOOOPS!**

Accidentally put something into the compost can that goes to the trash! Don't worry, there is special equipment that is used to get out anything which shouldn't be in there.





## Don't Pollute

by Hannah, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Hey, don't litter  
When you're walking in the city  
Or driving in the country 'cause  
You know that isn't pretty.  
We need clean water  
And we need clean air  
To make them both dirty  
That just wouldn't be fair.  
So what can we do?  
You ask me "how?"  
I say we clean up  
This mess right now.  
Throw away glass?  
I say Pass.  
Trashing cans?  
I have better plans.  
Wasting energy?  
It's not for me.  
Cut down on oil and gas  
If you're not going far,  
Use your bicycle  
Instead of your car.  
Recycling, recycling  
Why shouldn't you?  
It's the best thing to do.

## Kansas Kids Write

Log onto our website at [www.kansasdontspoilit.com](http://www.kansasdontspoilit.com)  
and get your own compost recipe.



# EATIN' IT UP

Hey, dudes and dudettes! They told me about composting that left over food on your lunch tray - cool! My favorite school lunch is Mac and Cheese. Deliciously yummy! AND - of course - the Ice Cream (chocolate)! If they would serve Mac And Cheese and Chocolate Ice Cream EVERY day - I wouldn't have ANY left over food on MY plate! <s>

SO - What about you? What's your favorite School lunch? Drop me a line through the mail, or send me an email to [kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us). I'll tell you what I find out - so be sure and let me know! Maybe if everyone likes the same thing, we can tell the cooks and have it ALL the time! Lol! KIT - ICAN



By ICAN

# LIGHTENING YOUR LUNCH LOAD

If you don't eat at your school cafeteria and you prefer to pack your own delicious lunch every day, lighten the load in your lunch pail, and the load that goes in the trash!

- Take a lunch pail instead of a sack.
- If your mom packs something in your lunch that you don't want to eat - or maybe she packs TOO much for you to be able to finish - put it back in your reusable container and take it home to compost instead of throwing it away.
- Bring your chips, cookies, crackers, and yogurt in reusable containers like a used margarine tub.
- Bring fruit that has a skin covering that you can eat - like Plums, Pears,
- Bring your drinks in a reusable plastic water or juice bottle.

Grapes, Peaches, and Apples.

If you prefer Oranges or Bananas, take the peels home - it makes a GREAT ingredient for your compost.



# CALLING ALL ARTISTS



Last Spring, nearly 4,000 students from Kindergarten through grade 12 submitted artwork for the calendar.

The drawings show ways that Kansans can keep our state beautiful, and ways to Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle. Individual winners for each grade were chosen, plus an overall winner.

Log on to: [www.kansasdontspoilit.com](http://www.kansasdontspoilit.com) to see all of the winning pictures.

Express yourself and your feelings about our state! Enter the 2005 Calendar Contest, which will feature student artwork from grades Kindergarten through 12th from across the state.

Here's how:

1. Create a drawing or painting about how we can keep Kansas clean by recycling, composting, buying recycled products, cleaning up litter, taking your paint cans, motor oil and other Household Hazardous Waste items to a Household Hazardous Waste facility instead of throwing it in the trash, or any other activity that would help keep our state clean.
2. You can create your drawing or painting with markers, watercolors, tempera, oils, crayon, chalk, acrylic, or colored pencils. Please do not use Pen and Ink.
3. Submit your artwork on an 8 1/2" X 11" piece of unlined white paper. Put your



# CHANGE UP!



The answers to these 5 clues are made up of the letters E-A-R-T-H. You can use the letters more than once in an answer. The values of these letters will help you to figure out the correct answers.

1. The innermost part of something (91 cents)
2. A mad one held a tea party (116 cents)
3. The floor or front of a fireplace (141 cents)
4. Movie house (117 cents)
5. A likely cause of harm (116 cents)

During your next lunch period, take this list and write down everything on your tray that you could put into a compost bin. Bring it back to your classroom and check the answers with your classmates and your teacher. Good Luck!

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

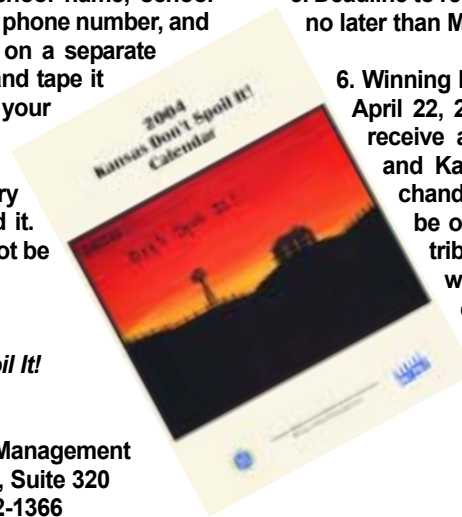
name, grade, school name, school address, school phone number, and teacher's name on a separate piece of paper and tape it to the back of your artwork.

4. MAIL your entry flat. Do not fold it. Your entry cannot be returned to you.

Mail it to:  
**Kansas Don't Spoil It!**  
 Calendar Contest  
 KDHE  
 Bureau of Waste Management  
 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320  
 Topeka, KS 66612-1366

5. Deadline to receive entries: Postmarked no later than March 15, 2004.

6. Winning Entries will be awarded by April 22, 2004. If you win, you will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond and Kansas Don't Spoil It! merchandise. Your artwork will also be on the calendar that is distributed statewide, and you will be invited to the state capital to meet Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, and have your picture taken with her!



ANSWERS TO CHANGE UP! 1. Heart 2. Hatter 3. Hearth 4. Theater 5. Threat



## FUN FACT

It takes about twelve weeks for the school's food waste to go from being "trash" to becoming compost!

Kansas Kids Can is published 4 times a year for 4th grade students throughout the state of Kansas.

Kansas Kids Can is the creation of the Kansas Don't Spoil It Program, a program of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Kansas Don't Spoil It is an awareness and education program created to encourage Kansans to reduce, reuse and recycle waste and keep our state in a beautiful condition.

Material in this newsletter is also available on the web at [www.kansasdontspoilit.com](http://www.kansasdontspoilit.com) To order the Kansas Kids Can newsletter, submit writings or request additional information, write to:

KDHE  
 Bureau of Waste Management  
 Attn: Kansas Kids Can  
 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320  
 Topeka, Kansas 66612  
 1-800-282-9790  
[kcc@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:kcc@kdhe.state.ks.us)



# Kansas Kids Write



If you're in the city  
 Please have pity.  
 Don't litter.  
 It's bitter.

If you're in the country  
 It goes the same way.  
 If you're at the harbor  
 Or if you're at the bay  
 Please don't litter  
 Like I said, "It's bitter!"

by Corinna, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade